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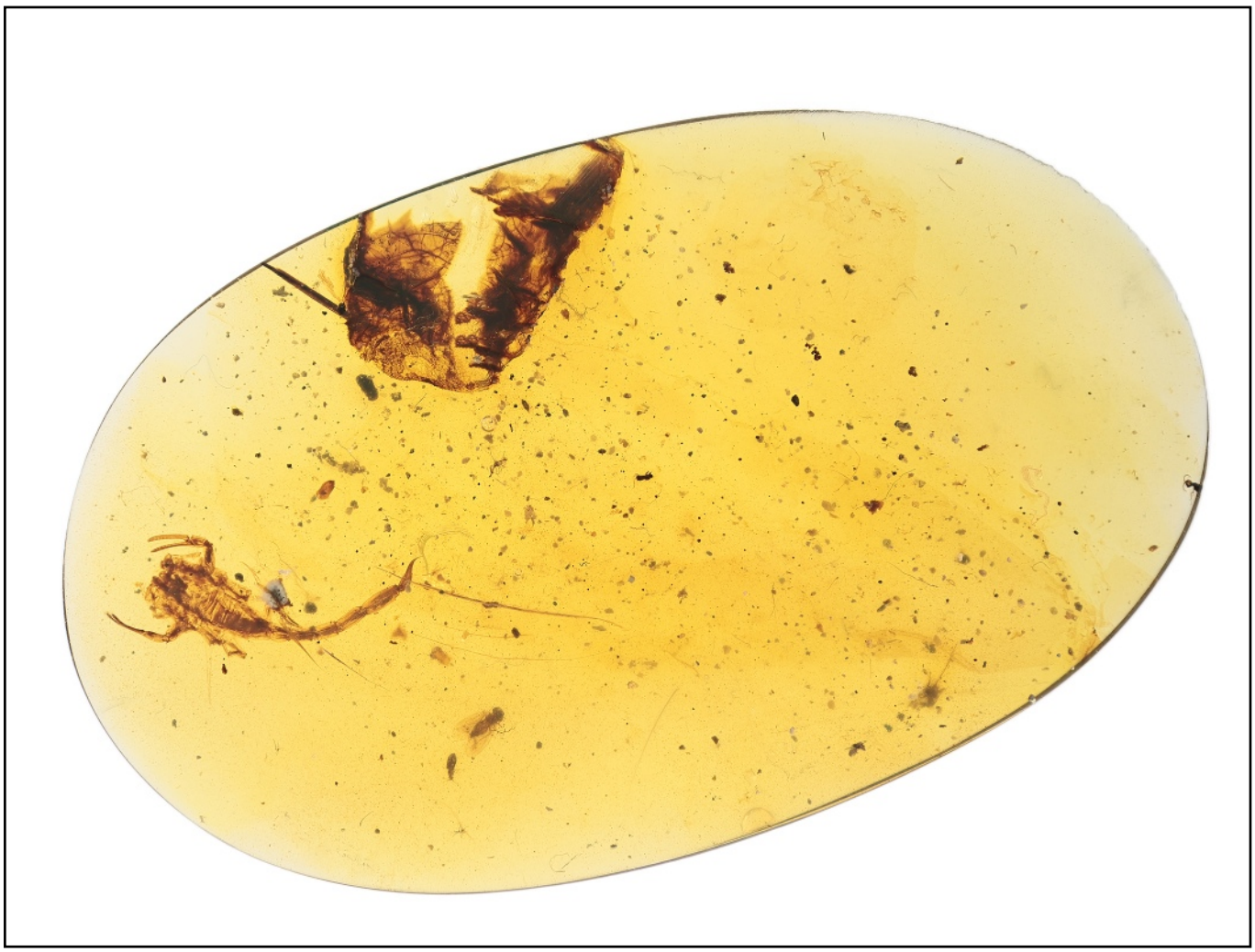

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A new species for the genus *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, fossil scorpion from Burmite (Scorpiones: Buthoidea: Ananteridae)

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Keywords:

Scorpion;
Buthoidea;
Ananteridae;
Archaeoananteroides;
carusoi;
taxonomy;
new species;
description;
fossil;
Cretaceous;
Myanmar;
Burmite.

Abstract. – A second species of fossil scorpion belonging to the rare genus *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, is described from the Cretaceous amber of Myanmar (Burma). The genus *Archaeoananteroides* was the first fossil scorpion to be described from Burmite which showed some clearly relationships with extant buthoids and, in particular with the extant genus *Ananteroides* Borelli, 1911. The genus *Archaeoananteroides* appeared to be in a less basal position than that of the elements of the family Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço. The description of a second species for this genus brings further evidence to the validity of the genus *Archaeoananteroides* and once again confirms the high degree of diversity present in the Burmese amber-producing forests.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – A new species for the genus *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, fossil scorpion from Burmite (Scorpiones: Buthoidea: Ananteridae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(03): 1 – 6.

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Introduction

In several recent publications, it was often stated that scorpions can yet be considered rare among the fossil arthropods found trapped in amber (Lourenço, 2023, 2024; Lourenço & Velten, 2023a, 2024). At the same time, it is also clear that the number of available pieces containing scorpions strongly increased in recent years, and this is particularly true in what concerns Myanmar Cretaceous amber (Burmite). If some taxonomic groups now proved to be particularly speciose such as the members of the families Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015 and Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, others remain extremely discrete. This is the case for some few groups found in Burmite which were directly associated to the family Buthidae C. L. Koch, 1837.

The genus *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, was the first element found in Burmite to be directly associated to the family Buthidae now Ananteridae (Lourenço & Velten, 2016; Ythier, 2024). Subsequently, a second genus *Cretaceousbuthus* Lourenço, 2022 was associated to the family Buthidae. Two species were described for this genus, namely *Cretaceousbuthus fraaijeorum* Lourenço, 2022 and *Cretaceousbuthus petersi* Lourenço, 2023 (Lourenço & Velten, 2022, 2023b).

Based on a number of characters, in particular on the trichobothrial patterns presented, several Cretaceous groups were suggested to be associated to the Buthoids. In particular the families Archaeobuthidae Lourenço, 2001 and Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015. Previously, Lourenço (2016) and Lourenço and Velten (2016), commented about the exclusion of these families from the buthoids, as proposed by certain authors (Baptista et al., 2006; Riquelme et al., 2015), based mainly on theoretical speculation. It is well known that both higher classification of scorpion in general and classification of fossils in particular is a 'hot' subject for polemics, which occupies a large space within scorpion taxonomy in particular during the last 30 years. There is no full evidence to prove that a given fossil does belong to the Buthoidea lineage or proving the contrary. So, a number of existent analyses remain a matter of personal speculation rather than the 'final truth', as pretended by certain 'scorpion-experts' (Lourenço, 2016; Lourenço & Velten, 2016). In this contribution a second species is described for the rare genus *Archaeoananteroides*, bringing further evidence to support the possible presence of buthoid elements since Mesozoic times.

Material and methods

The specimen investigated here is preserved in a clear block of reddish-yellow amber. Details of the block are supplied together with the description of the specimen. A valuable number of characters, including almost all the trichobothria, are visible in this specimen, allowing a good investigation. Several characters, however, are not well observable mainly because the specimen is strongly 'mummified'. The schematic drawings provided here are interpretations of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube and an ocular micrometer. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Cheliceral nomenclature follows Vachon (1963) while those for the trichobothria follow Vachon (1974, 1975). Other morphological

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terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria were definitely recorded only when their bothria (areoles) could be observed. Other trichobothria may be suggested by the presence of transverse hairs.

Taxonomic treatment

Buthoidea C. L. Koch, 1837

Ananteridae Pocock, 1900

(A clear assignment should require further investigations)

Archaeoananteroides Lourenço, 2016

Archaeoananteroides carusoi Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

(Fig. 1-10)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/529B5906-5DCF-409C-887C-A3535BEB8AFC

Holotype. – A male, most possibly an adult. A clear block of reddish-yellow amber that measured 41 x 26 x 3 mm. A certain number of inclusions, mostly dust and some vegetal debris are equally present. The very marked state of 'mumification' of the specimen prevents a more complete observation of all characters, in particular some on the ventral aspect.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name is an hommage to Mr Giuseppe Caruso, Kirchheimbolanden (Germany) for his support to the present study.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collection of Mr Giuseppe Caruso, Kirchheimbolanden (Germany).

Diagnosis. – The general morphology of the new species is similar to that of *Archaeoananteroides maderai* Lourenço, 2016, the only known species of the genus known until now. A combination of features can however be used to diagnose the new species: a mediun to small global size when compared to *A. maderai* with only 11.32 mm in total length. The new species is less bulk with short metasoma and pedipalps. Carapace weakly granulated with the anterior margin clearly straight. Sternum pentagonal. Tergites with one median carinae. Sternites with moderate slit-like spiracles. Metasomal segments I and II with 10 carinae; segment III with only 8 carinae vs 10 on *A. maderai*; setation on metasomal segments totally absent, while in *A. maderai* the setation is strongly marked. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalp chela with 9-9 series of rounded granules and marked spinoid external and internal accessory granules. Pectines large with 14-14 teeth for a male while in *A. maderai* 16-16 teeth are observed for a female. Trichobothrial pattern clearly of the buthid type A (Vachon 1974): dorsal trichobothria of femur well observable and showing a β (beta) disposition (Vachon, 1975): 4 internal, 2 external and 5 dorsal trichobothria can be observed in the femur; 1 internal and 5 dorsal trichobothria on patella; ventral totally absent; 6-7 external trichobothria can be suggested on patella by the presence of fine setae; 6 dorso-external and 2 ventral can be observed on chela hand and 6 on fixed finger. Tibial spurs present on legs III and IV but reduced compared to *A. maderai*.

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is reddish-yellow to reddish-brown, mainly due to the presence of some dark zones; carapace, tergites and metasomal segments reddish-brown; pedipalps and legs yellow to reddish-yellow. Ventral aspect yellow; pectines reddish-yellow.

Morphology. – Carapace weakly granular; anterior margin clearly straight. Carinae inconspicuous; furrows weak. Median ocular tubercle inconspicuous; median eyes small, anterior to the centre of the carapace and separated by one ocular diametre; three pairs of lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal. Mesosomal tergites not granular to smooth, with one median carina; VII with five moderately marked carinae. Pectines large, with 14-14 teeth; fulcra absent. Sternites weakly granular to smooth, with slit-like spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV with 10-10-8-8 moderately marked carinae; segment V with five carinae; dorsal and latero-dorsal carinae of segments I-IV without any spinoid granules; dorsal aspect of segments I to V moderately depressed; setation on all segments absent. Telson moderately long with a pear-like shape. Cheliceral dentition of the buthid type; basal teeth reduced on both fingers (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalp femur pentacarinate; patella with 5-7 carinae; internal face of femur and patella without any spinoid granule. Chela with weakly marked carinae; all faces smooth; internal face of chela without any spinoid granule. Fixed and movable fingers each with 9-9 series of rounded granules and conspicuous internal and external spinoid accessory granules; extremity of fingers with one stronger spinoid granule; setation of pedipalps almost absent. Trichobothrial pattern identical to the extant buthid type A (Vachon 1974); dorsal trichobothria of femur showing a β (beta) disposition (Vachon, 1975). For details refer to the diagnosis. Legs tarsi with thin short setae forming a brush. Tibial spurs present on legs III and IV but weakly marked.

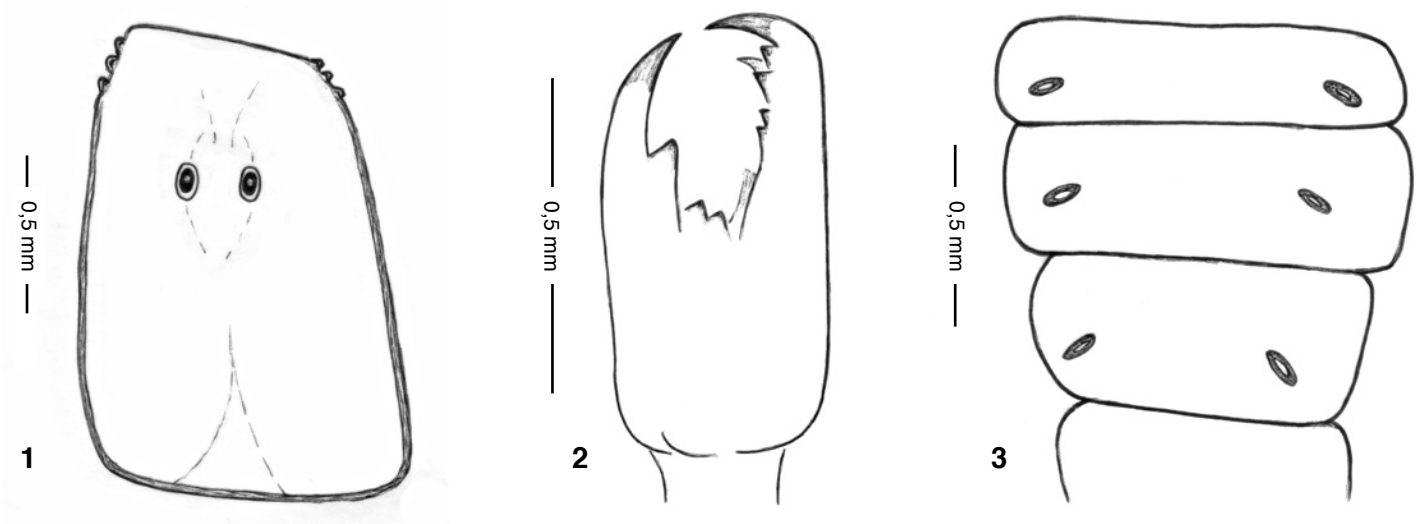

Fig. **1-3**. *Archaeoananteroides carusoi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.

1. Carapace. **2**. Chelicera. **3**. Sternites IV-VII with spiracles.

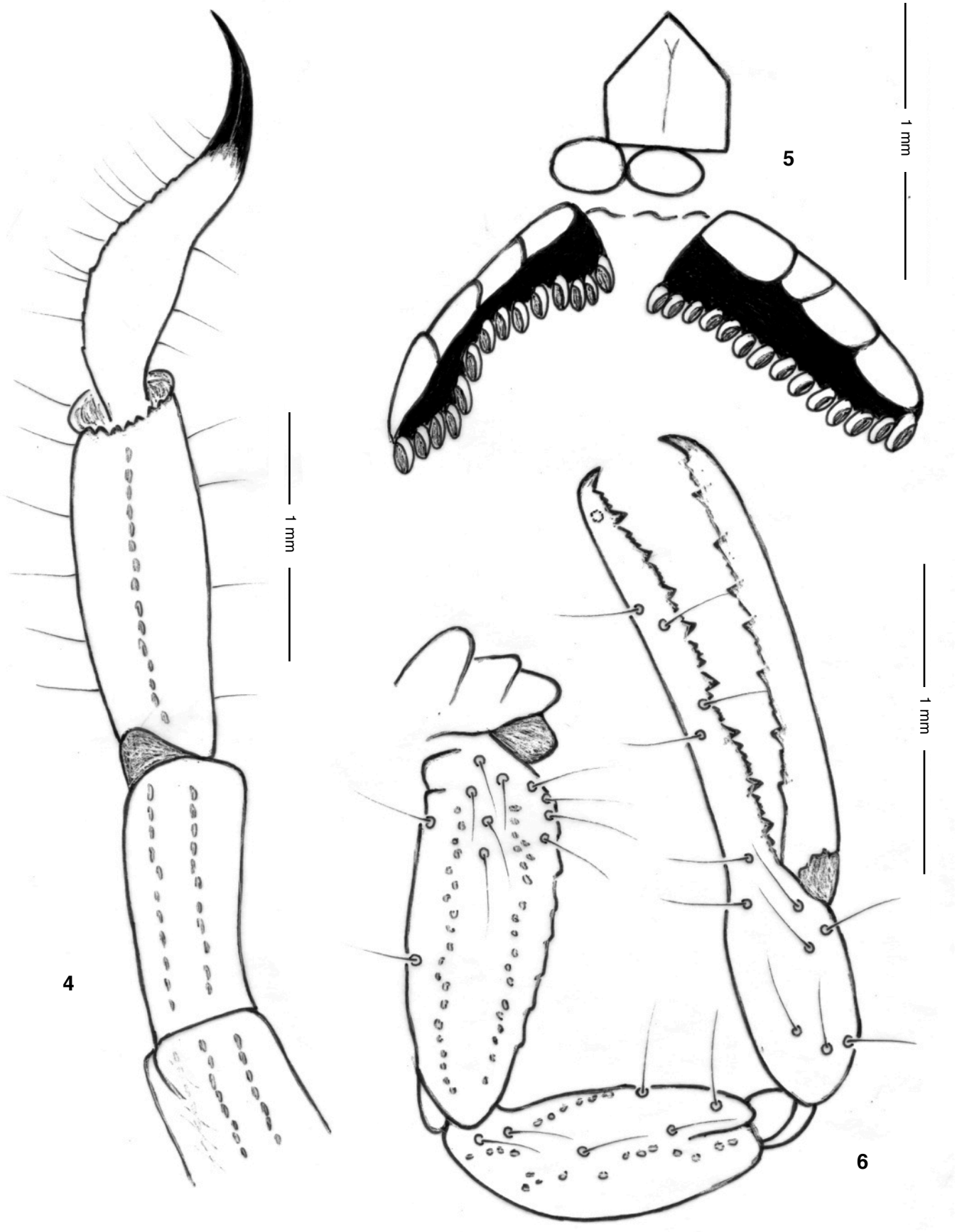

Fig. **4**-**6**. *Archaeoananteroides carusoi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.

4. Metasomal segments IV-V and telson, lateral aspect. **5**. Ventral aspect showing the sternum, genital operculum and pectines. **6**. Right pedipalp, dorsal aspect, showing the trichobothrial pattern.

Morphometric values (mm) of the male holotype of *Archaeoananteroides carusoi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length*** (including telson) 11.32.

– ***Carapace***
length 1.47,
anterior width 0.94,
posterior width 1.14.

– ***Mesosoma*** length 2.74.

– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length 0.81, width 0.67;
II: length 0.87, depth 0.61;
III: length 1.07, depth 0.61;
IV: length 1.21, depth 0.54;
V: length 1.54, depth 0.54.

– ***Telson*** length 1.61.

– ***Vesicle*** depth 0.41.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 1.41, width 0.47;
patella length 1.27, width 0.47;
chela length 2.21, width 0.41, depth 0.47;
movable finger length 1.54.

Relationships. – In summary, the new species can be separated from *Archaeoananteroides maderai* by a number of features:

(**i**) a smaller global with, 11.32 mm,
(**ii**) less bulk metasoma and pedipalps,
(**iii**) carapace with the anterior margin clearly straight,
(**iv**) metasomal segment III with only 8 carinae,
(**v**) setation on metasomal segments totally absent,
(**vi**) pectines with 14-14 teeth for a male while in *A. maderai* 16-16 teeth are observed for a female,
(**vii**) tibial spurs reduced.

New material also examined during this study

Palaeoburmesebuthus (aff.) ***longipalpis*** Lourenço & Rossi, 2017
(Family Palaeoburmesebuthidae)

Very small specimen, with a total length of 8.29 mm; sex can tentatively be defined as a male in account of some morphological characters (Fig. 11). Included in a very clear yellow piece of amber sizing 16 x 10 x 2 mm. The piece contains no other inclusions. The specimen is clearly characterised by morphological structures similar to that of the holotype of *Palaeoburmesebuthus longipalpis*, in particular very long pedipalps; the ratio between chela length/width is 1.94 / 0.20 = 9.7. Other characters are, alpha disposition for the dorsal trichobothria of the femur; sternum pentagonal; chelicerae typical of buthids; median eyes markedly anterior in relation to the centre of the carapace and 3 pairs of lateral eyes (Lourenço & Rossi, 2017).

Chaerilobuthus (aff.) ***staxi*** Lourenço 2024
(Family Chaerilobuthidae)

Very small specimen, with a total length of 4.47 mm; sex could not be clearly defined (Fig. 12). Included in a very clear yellow piece of amber sizing 28 x 22 x 3 mm. Inclusions such as vegetal debris and dirt are practically absent but some insects and mites can be observed. The specimen is clearly characterised by morphological structures similar to the holotype of *Chaerilobuthus staxi*, in particular the presence of reduced median eyes (Lourenço & Velten, 2024).

Acknowledgements

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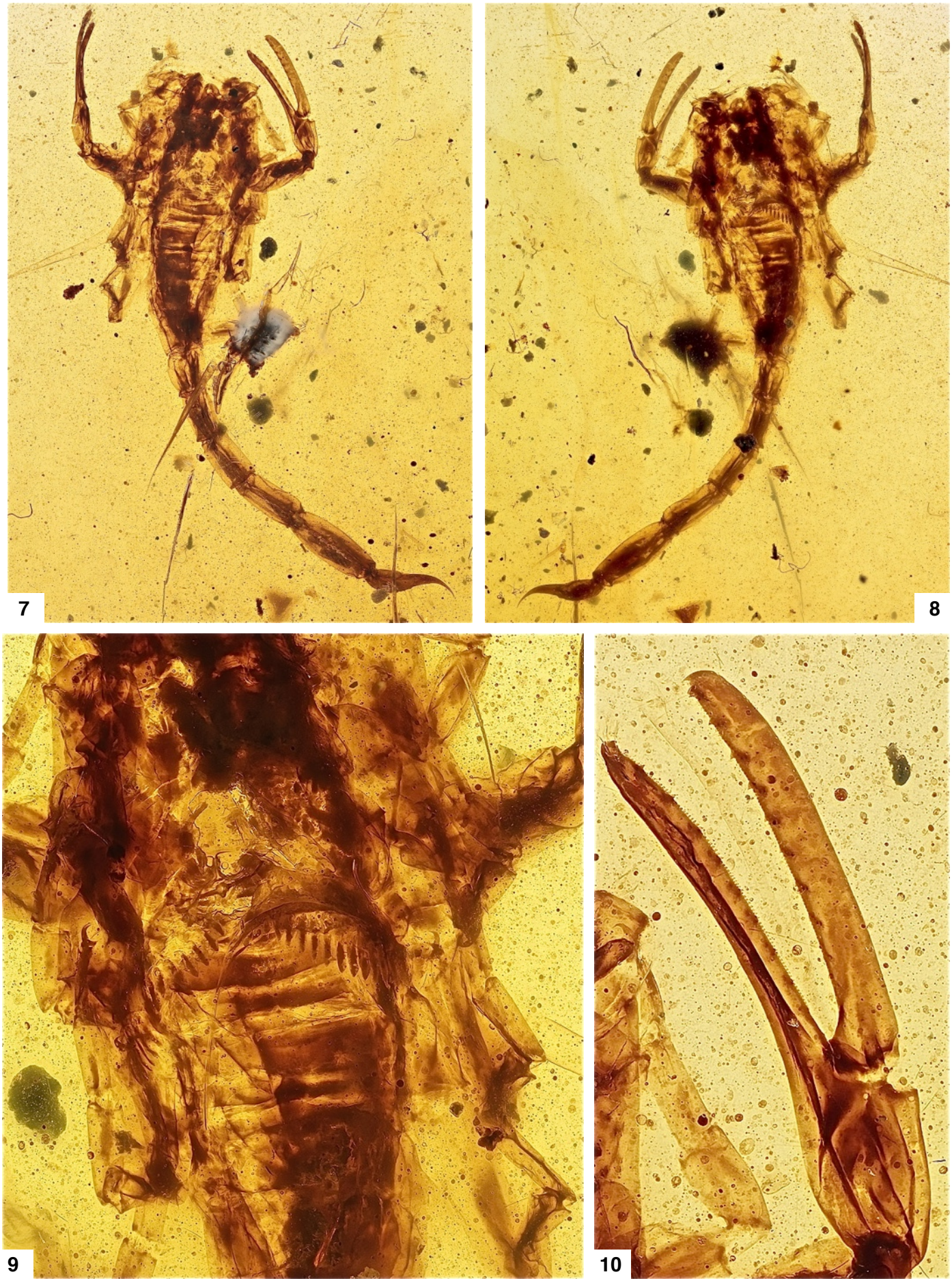

Fig. **7-10**. *Archaeoananteroides carusoi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.

7. Habitus, dorsal aspect. **8**. Habitus, ventral aspect. **9**. Ventral aspect showing the sternum, genital operculum and pectines. **10**. Chela fingers showing the rows of granules on fixed and movable fingers.

11

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Fig. **11**. *Palaeoburmesebuthus* (aff.) *longipalpis* Lourenço & Rossi, 2017. Habitus of possible male juvenile, dorsal aspect.
Fig. **12**. *Chaerilobuthus* (aff.) *staxi* Lourenço 2024. Habitus of juvenile, dorsal aspect.

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Authors contribution [1]

Publisher Correspondence. – WL
Writing the article. – WL
Description. – WL
Article proofreading. – WL
Bibliographic work. – WL
Material study. – WL & JV
Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-4)

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – Une nouvelle espèce du genre *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, scorpion fossile de l'ambre Crétacé de Myanmar (Scorpiones: Buthoidea: Ananteridae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(03): 1 – 6.

Une deuxième espèce de scorpion fossile appartenant au rare genre *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016, est décrite de l'ambre Crétacé du Myanmar. Le genre *Archaeoananteroides* a été le premier scorpion fossile décrit de ce type d'ambre, présentant des claires affinités avec les Buthoidea modernes, et en particulier avec le genre *Ananteroides* Borelli, 1911. Le genre *Archaeoananteroides* semble être situé dans une position moins basale que celle des éléments de la famille des Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço. La description d'une deuxième espèce pour ce genre apporte un argument supplémentaire à la validité des *Archaeoananteroides* et une fois de plus confirme la très grande diversité scorpionique présente dans les forêts Crétacés productrices d'ambre.

Mots-clés. – Scorpion, Buthoidea, Ananteridae, *Archaeoananteroides*, *carusoi*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, description, fossile, Crétacé, Ambre, Myanmar, Burmite.

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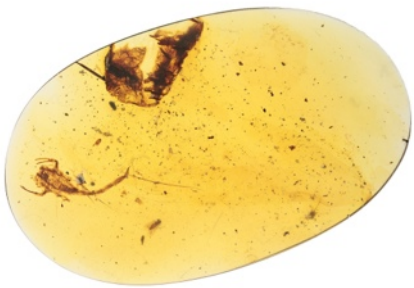

Illustration de la couverture :

Archaeoananteroides carusoi Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Habitus, dorsal aspect, in the stone.

Crédits:

Wilson R. Lourenço : Fig. 1-6.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 7-12 & couverture.

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